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INTRODUCTION TO THE BUDGET IN BRIEF

Harford County's Budget in Brief is a financial summary to provide our citizens with an overview of our Annual Operating and Capital Budgets. It includes information on how the budget is developed and what it ultimately means in terms of services to our community.

The annual budget process and calendar are included.

A Fiscal Policy section defines the cornerstones of our financial management plan.

The FY 07 Overview summarizes how the Administration's policies and plans were combined with revenue projections to determine where the funds were to be appropriated.

A summary of Harford County's Approved FY 07 Operating and Capital Budgets is included.

The FY 07 Budget Highlights include pie charts and summaries for each County Fund. A brief explanation of how revenues were projected and appropriation decisions were made follows each fund's summary, with emphasis on the General Fund.

An overall summary of Capital Budget revenues and expenses is provided, as well as a listing of projects in which a great deal of citizen interest has been expressed.

The County's Vision, Mission and Goals are detailed, plus samples of some departmental performance measures are highlighted.

A County organization chart is included.

Statistics on the level of certain County services are listed, as well as various points of interest.

The County At A Glance details specific demographic, economic and educational data.

A summary of elected officials and departmental staff involved in the budget process is provided.

BUDGET PROCESS

With advice from a Spending Affordability Committee (comprised of local citizen volunteers) and departmental staff; after meetings with all County departments, the Board of Education, the County Libraries and Harford Community College; and after conducting a public hearing to secure citizen input; the County Executive proposes an annual budget, which by law, must be presented to the County Council by April 1st. The Council then holds its own hearings. By May 31st, the Council is required by law to adopt an Operating and Capital Budget and set tax rates.

